

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2016 WINTER....ISSUE #1/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



Hard-luck characters arrested
in Ames during Prohibition.

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President Mary Atherly
Co-President Kathy Svec
Secretary Lynette Spicer
Treasurer Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Peter Hallock, Lonnie Mannes, Carol Phillips, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth, Hank Zaletel
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director Casie Vance
Projects Coordinator Alex Feifar
Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord. Hannah Frederick

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours: Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. It will re-open for the 2016 season.

You're Invited! 2016 Annual Meeting: Saturday, March 5, 10am, Farwell Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM: Early Policing in Ames

The Ames Historical Society's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be a lively overview of 2015, highlighting last year's programs and activities. Members will also approve the roster of Board nominees.

The event is on Saturday, March 5, 10am at the Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas.

Following the business portion, Kathy Svec, Society Co-President will present **Mischief & Mayhem: Early Policing in Ames.**

Human nature in all its variety is often revealed in police files and in Ames there are a number of tales to tell. You'll hear stories ranging from campus pranks to serious crimes and a brief history of the Ames Police Department through 1945.



W. G. WRIGHT
-DEALER IN-
HARDWARE, CUTLERY
NAILS, STOVES, TINWARE,
WOODEN AND GLASSWARE
My stock is complete, and I will sell goods in my line cheaper than even offers before in this county. Call and examine my stock and prices and be convinced. You will always find me on hand to attend to business. No trouble to show goods.

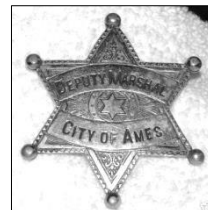
Hear about our first town marshal, local hardware man W.G. Wright, who was appointed in 1870. In its 146 years of law enforcement history, Ames has had 22 different town marshals and police chiefs.

The program will touch upon a few of the more colorful individuals who upheld the law, including W.C. Shockley who took office in 1875 when the population of Ames was 1,153 and 281 were enrolled at the college. He served eight non-consecutive years between 1875 and 1891.

The career of the much-loved "Big Bill" Ricketts began in 1896. Ames' population had nearly quadrupled and the proliferation of the railroad presented him with a whole new set of problems. Ricketts' was the town's last "marshal." After that, the title changed to "Police Chief."



Join us at the Ames History Center
immediately following
the annual meeting
for a celebration in honor of
retired Curator Dennis Wendell.
A light lunch will be served.



Announcing the 11th Annual Lecture Series

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library

All lectures at Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas, Ames

Free & open to the public. Door prize drawing each evening.

Tuesday, March 29, 7pm

A Most Magnificent Gift

By Steve Sullivan, *Communications Manager, Mary Greeley Medical Center*



In 1916, Capt. Wallace Greeley gave the city of Ames the gift of a hospital named in honor of his late wife, Mary – the first facility in Ames dedicated to health care. A century later, Mary Greeley Medical Center is still here, providing quality medical care for the people of Ames, Story County and surrounding communities. We will take a look at how Mary Greeley has grown from its beginnings 100 years ago to what it is today, continually improving its services, technology and facilities.

6-7pm: open house at the Ames History Center, 416 Douglas to view the exhibition “A Time of Expansion, 1915-16” that features Mary Greeley Hospital.

Wednesday, April 27, 7pm

From Farming to Gravel Pit to City Park

By Dennis Wendell, *Emeritus Society curator; Associate Professor Emeritus, ISU Parks Library faculty*

By Erwin Klaas, *Professor Emeritus, ISU Animal Ecology faculty*



Wendell and Klaas will team up to highlight both the geologic and recent history of the area in north Ames that is now Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Recent human activity includes summer hunting and fishing camps by Native Americans and farming by the Jensen, Pasley, and Eness families. In the 1950's, Hallett Materials, Inc. began sand and gravel mining creating a large, deep lake that is now the centerpiece of the park. Visuals will include artifacts, slides and a rare 1988 home video of the Page dragline digging and "walking."

Tuesday, May 24, 7pm

The Football Controversy at Iowa State College, 1894-1897

By Douglas Biggs, *Associate Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney*



In the 1890s, ISC was one of the strongest football teams in the west, running up huge scores on big university and small college teams alike. Success bred jealousy and ISC was accused of fielding a team of hired semi-professionals instead of student athletes. Douglas Biggs explores the origins of Iowa State football and how President William Beardshear and legendary coach “Pop” Warner influenced the foundational years of ISC football.

Wednesday, June 29, 7pm

From Orphan To Adviser: The Life of Billy Sunday

By Craig Bishop, *author of Billy Sunday, the Baseball Evangelist (1862-1935)*



Born in Ames, Iowa in 1862, Billy Sunday was a Civil War orphan who became famous throughout America during his lifetime. Raised in Glenwood and Davenport, he became a professional baseball player and later, an influential Christian minister and adviser to Presidents and community leaders. Known for his down-to-earth and athletic style of preaching, Sunday's message appealed to Americans in need of idealism on social issues. Bishop's presentation will include still photos, audio testimonies of Mrs. Sunday and films of Mr. Sunday in his last years.

“Expansion” Exhibit & Associated Programs

— A Time of — EXPANSION THE AMES BUILDING BOOM OF 1915-1916

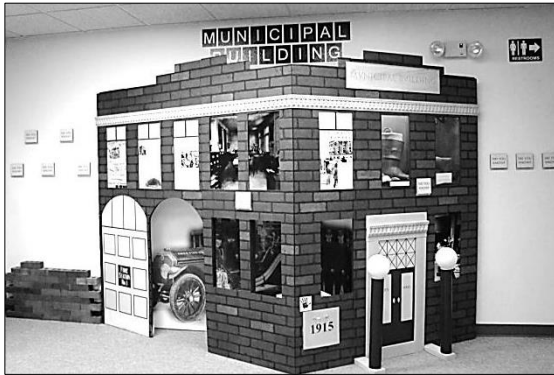


Exhibit Extended to 10/29/16

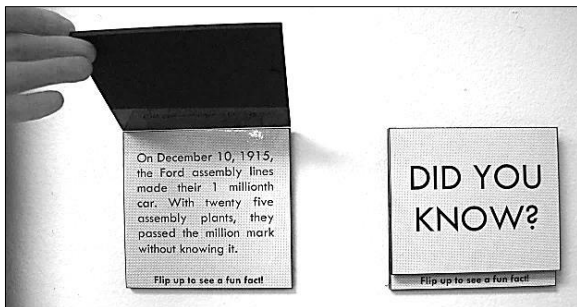
The current exhibit at the Ames History Center looks back 100 years to 1915-16 when the citizens of Ames saw their town take a great leap into the modern era.

Town leaders had recognized that civic improvements were needed if Ames was to be a progressive community with amenities that served the real needs of residents and visitors. 1915-16 saw a boom of activity.

The exhibit tells the stories of four iconic buildings constructed in those years through text, photographs, artifacts and flip-up fun facts:

- The 1915 City Hall - Municipal Building
- Mary Greeley Hospital
- The Masonic Building
- The Sheldon-Munn Hotel

Visitors can enjoy interactive flip-ups that tell an expanded story of all that was going on 100 years ago.



The exhibit has been extended to Saturday, October 29 and is on view at 416 Douglas six days/week: Monday – Friday, 1-5 pm, Saturday, 10 am-4 pm.

Programs Enhance Exhibit

During the exhibit, “A Time of Expansion,” the Society is offering special programs that take cues from the exhibit or provide a wider view of events 100 years ago. *Supported by the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Community Grant Program.*

April 23:

Making a Family Time Capsule Workshop,
2pm, Octagon Community Gallery,
(\$10 suggested donation)

Coloring Contest

May 9:

Coloring Contest sheets available
at the Ames History Center

June 1:

Coloring Contest entries due
to the Ames History Center

June 11:

Community Ice Cream Social and
Coloring Contest Open Gallery, 12-3pm
at the Ames History Center



July 5:

Classic Movie Night:
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, 1916 version
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 6:30pm



August 25:

History Talk relating to the four buildings featured in
the exhibit, title to be announced
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

September 22:

History Talk relating to one of the four buildings
featured in the exhibit, title to be announced
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

October 27:

History Talk relating to one of the four buildings
featured in the exhibit, title to be announced
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

More Events!

Fill your calendar with a variety of special events from the Ames Historical Society:

Tuesday, February 23:

Showing of the documentary,
“I Will – The Jack Trice Story,”
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

This film was written by Cyclones.tv's Tom Kroeschell and locally produced in Ames by Jeff Grummer and Rod Bodholdt of B&G Productions. The film explores the life of a college student who today is a legend but in 1923 was a young man of 21 years striving to “do big things” to honor “my race, family and self.” The story of Jack Trice examines the hurdles he faced on and off the field and his compelling example that still resonates in the 21st century. Iowa State University is the only NCAA Division I-A school to name its football stadium for an African-American. *Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library.*

Tuesday, April 19:

Members After Hours at the History Center
7-8:30 pm (*members only*)

Friday-Saturday, May 20-21:

Book Sale at the Ames History Center
10 am -5 pm both days

Friday, June 3:

Art Walk Open House
5-8 pm, at the History Center

Sunday, June 19:

Grand Re-Opening Celebration for Hoggatt School
2-4 pm, at 18th & Burnett

Tuesday, July 19:

Kids' Movie Night, title to be announced
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 25:

Octagon Art Festival Open House
10 am-5 pm, at the History Center

Tuesday, September 29:

Music Walk Open House ,
5-8 pm, at the History Center

Tuesday, October 18:

Members After Hours at the History Center
7-8:30 pm (*members only*)



In October, third graders from Meeker School came down to the History Center to take a walking tour and hear a program titled, “History Is Cool!” Below, Hannah Frederick (center) unrolled a buffalo hide to talk about early settlement in the prairie states. In 2015, the Society presented programs to third graders from Meeker, Mitchell, Fellows and Edwards Schools as well as groups of home schooled children and cub scouts.



Below, anniversary cake awaits guests and visitors last November 13. The open house celebrated the kick-off to the holiday season in the Main Street Cultural District and marked the Society's 35th anniversary. The event was well-attended with nearly 200 people.



Society News – Around the Ames History Center



The Society's Old Fashioned Christmas (above) on Saturday, December 5, offered holiday crafts, hot chocolate, music on the player piano and visits with Santa Claus. 125 visitors of all ages enjoyed the activities and the tree decorated in vintage fashion.



Volunteers from a Minnesota group (above) called Students Today, Leaders Forever traveled through Ames on January 15. There were 16 high school students who worked on inventorying building plans and transcribing postcards. When possible, the staff at the History Center is pleased to work with groups such as this – the large number means a lot can be accomplished in a short amount of time!



At Ames High School, students are required to do community service as part of their graduation requirement. This young woman fulfilled hers last fall by hosting the front desk at the History Center.

Altrusa Awards Grant



The Society was pleased to receive a \$2,000 grant from the Ames chapter of Altrusa International. The club annually hosts a holiday home tour with the proceeds distributed to non-profit groups in Ames that "lead to a better community." The grant will fund the final portion of the transfer of our aged website to a new, more user friendly format, a project that has been underway since last year. Watch for an announcement of the launch of the new website this spring.

Membership Goal Reached

The Society's Membership Committee set a goal of 50 new members in 2015 and was excited to have 62 join our ranks! Welcome new members and many thanks to current members who helped our campaign. Memberships provide essential, broad-based, ongoing support for the Society's operations.

E.D. on IMA Board

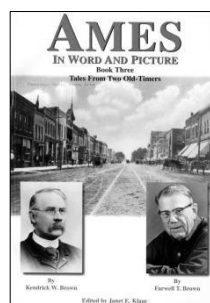
Society Executive Director, Casie Vance, is now serving on the Board of the Iowa Museum Association. Casie is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in history and is working on her master's degree in public administration at Drake University. In addition to the IMA, Casie is involved in Leadership Ames, Young Professionals of Ames and the Ames Main Street Cultural District.



Ames Hosts IMA Conference

The annual Iowa Museum Association conference will meet in Ames, October 16-18. Events will be at the Scheman Building and on campus and the Society will host several open houses for attendees. All three members of the Society's staff are on the conference planning committee. Conference registration is open to the public – a great chance to sample Iowa's museums!

Gift of FTB Books



Heuss Printing of Ames has donated their remaining stock of Ames history books by Farwell T. Brown. There is a mix of books one, two, and three, both hardcover and paperback. This is a very generous donation to the stock for our gift shop!

Society News – Around the Ames History Center



Planning for the Future

The Society has completed the final payment on the parking lot on 5th Street located immediately adjacent to our building. When it came up for sale several years ago, the Society's Board saw it as a critical investment, preserving the option to expand our facility in the future. Until that time, it continues its current use, including a spot for the History Trailer.

ACVB Grant

The Society received a \$1,500 grant from the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau's Community Grant Program. These funds will help us promote events in conjunction with the exhibit, "A Time of Expansion: The Ames Building Boom of 1915-1916." The programs will provide additional ways for the community to learn about the buildings featured and connect with our shared history. The Community Grants are intended to support attracting new visitors to the Ames area, enhancing the visitor experience and improving the quality of life for area residents.

Society Wish List

Our sincere thanks go to Jim and Frankee Oleson for extending our newspaperarchive.com subscription, to Tom Boast for donating a compact-VHS to VHS converter, to Ken Cameron for a sturdy coat rack, and Duane and Lenny Mangold for a coat rack and dress form. Thank you all so very much!

Still needed:

- Photos of Ames in the 1960s (this decade is largely missing from the Ames Tribune archive).
- Funds for a 2nd humidifier w/ auto-shutoff ~\$185
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)

Contact us at 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org



Hoggatt School Reopens June 19

After a two-year hiatus, the Society is excited to be planning for the re-opening of Hoggatt School. After the gala celebration on **Sunday, June 19**, the little schoolhouse will be open Sundays from 2-4 pm until August 21. It is still on the grounds of Meeker School, 18th & Burnett, but in a new location.

The weekly program of activities will be announced in the next newsletter.



Hoggatt Brick Path – Help!

Prior to opening the school, the Society hopes to install salvaged pavers from a 1905 brick sidewalk to create a new sidewalk to Hoggatt's front door.

Donations are sought for this project, either in the form of cash or expert labor to install the herringbone pattern. Please call 515-232-2148 if you can assist with the walkway!

New Program for Clubs and Orgs

The Society maintains a roster of programs on local history topics that can be requested by groups in Ames. These programs require a donation that supports our efforts to preserve the Ames story. See our website for the listing of program choices.

A new program offering is one that provides an overview of what the Ames Historical Society does. This presentation is offered for free to clubs and organizations in Ames. To schedule, call 515-232-2148 or email info@ameshistory.org.

Storage Committee

One of the challenges faced by the Society is the need for consolidated storage for our growing collections. A committee is being formed to study this issue and recommend a solution. Members with ideas or expertise would be welcome to join the group. Call or email if you are interested.

“New” Photo Of Civil War Soldier Surfaces in Ames

Reprinted from the Iowa History Journal, Jan-Feb. 2011, Volume 3, Issue 1, “Publisher’s Perspective”

By Mike Chapman, I.H.J. publisher

Every now and then, I am fortunate to run across a piece of history that falls into the “exceptional” category. Such was the case when I visited the Ames Historical Society, a small group that is determined to keep alive the heritage of this grand city.

While doing research about Billy Sunday for the cover story of Volume 3, Issue 1, I called the Ames Historical Society to ask what information was available. Soon, I was on my way to Ames, where I met Alan Spohnheimer, a fellow who, like me, loves history of all sorts, but particularly Iowa history.

He had several files on Billy Sunday as well as several dozen photographs that he had scanned over the years. He was very enthused about one recently-acquired photo in particular – and I soon discovered why.

He pulled up a stunning image. It was of a young man sporting a beard, wearing a Civil war uniform. He had a piercing gaze, as though he may have been apprehensive about the conflict he had signed up for.

“This is the only known photo of Billy Sunday’s father,” said Alan. “He joined the Union army several months before Billy was born. He died in Missouri and Billy never saw his father.”

The photo had come from Ames resident, Doug Samson, who owns and operates The Hobby Shop just a block away from the Ames History Center.

And therein lies an intriguing story. Alan took me to meet Doug, who was happy to show me the huge Bible, circa 1860, that is the centerpiece of the story. His grandmother left the Bible to Doug and as he was leafing through it he found the large photograph of a Union soldier. On the back was written the name “William Sunday.”

Doug’s grandmother told him that her side of the family knew the Sunday family way back into the 1860s, and that the photo had been given to them nearly 150 years ago. Someone tucked it away in the Bible, where Doug discovered it.

Billy Sunday survived a tough childhood to become a major league ball player and then the most famous evangelist of his era, maybe of all time. The fact that he never met his father haunted him. In his autobiography, *The Sawdust Trail*, published in 1932, Billy wrote this:

“I never saw my father. He walked from, Ames, Iowa, to Des Moines, thirty miles, to enlist in the Civil War and in August, 1862 was assigned to Company E, 23rd Iowa Infantry. I was born on my grandfather’s farm one mile south of Ames.

“My father was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and was of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage. He was a contract and brick mason by trade, and built one of the first brick buildings ever erected in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

“He sleeps in an unknown grave beneath the eternal flowers and the perpetual sunshine of the Southland, waiting for the trumpet of Gabriel to sound the reveille on Resurrection morning. Then, for the first time, I shall look into the face of him whose name I bear, and whose blood courses through my veins.”

William Sunday died after he came down with a severe cold after wading through a frozen river. He was buried at Camp Patterson in Missouri. In his later years, Billy Sunday went to that area to

try and find his father’s final resting place, but to no avail.

Perhaps the only photograph of his father that Billy Sunday ever saw as a young boy was the same photo that Doug Samson found in his family Bible!

A final word: The Ames Historical Museum is a real gem for the state, filled with records, photos, books, newspapers and fascinating stories from out of the past. Drop in to see the museum at 416 Douglas, Suite 101. You’ll be glad you did!

A complete telling of Billy Sunday’s story will be presented as part of the Society’s 2016 Lecture Series on Wed. June 29 (see page 2).

Photo credit: Doug Samson.

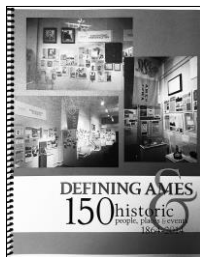
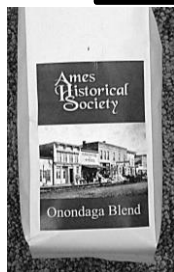
Note: the Iowa History Journal is published 6 times/year and is available at newsstands and online. The IHJ is Iowa’s only popular magazine devoted exclusively to Iowa history.

Ames Historical Society
PO Box 821
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Museum Shop



GREAT COMBO: 1 lb. bag of Onondaga Blend coffee roasted by Burgie's, bean or ground, \$13 and a hand-thrown Ames mug featuring the Bandshell \$18; deep blue or yellow; great for hostess gifts.

DEFINING AMES: Second Edition
all text from the Sesquicentennial exhibit – just \$10!

DVDs: Society-produced videos on many local history topics - each \$15

NEW: AHS LOGO BOOK BAG: canvas, \$15

Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm or by appointment

Remembering Craig Hastings

We were saddened by the passing on Jan. 23 of Board member, Craig Hastings. Craig was an attorney with Hastings, Gartin & Boettger, LLP. His involvement with the Society was his way of acting upon his great fondness for things historical, blending that with practical wisdom gleaned through years of experience. Craig loved to challenge people to think and always asked good questions. He was 66 years old.



Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010